

Clauses

Independent and Dependent

Mr. C. Johnson 2008

What is a clause?

- A clause is a part of a sentence that contains a complete subject and a complete predicate. The two types of clauses are listed below:
 - Independent clause
 - Dependent (subordinate) clause

Independent Clause

- Expresses a complete thought and has a subject and a verb. It is the main thought of the sentence and can stand alone correctly as a simple sentence without anything attached to it.

Example 1

- Jim sang the song at the top of his lungs
because he liked it.

Analysis

- It is the main idea of the sentence.
- Can be used alone as a simple sentence.

Example 2

- The game will be played tonight even if it rains.

Analysis

- It is the main idea of the sentence.
- Can be used alone as a simple sentence.

Example 3

- Although he studied hard for the test, he didn't get a good mark.

Analysis

- It is the main idea of the sentence.
- Can be used alone as a simple sentence.

Dependent Clause

- Depends upon the independent (main) clause for understanding.
- Is not a complete sentence when standing alone.
 - Person needs food to live, dependent clause needs independent clause to express thought.

Dependent Clause

- Can be used as:
 - Adjective Clause
 - Adverb Clause
 - Noun Clause

Can be used as an adjective.

Example 1

- The player who won the game for us was Mark.

Analysis

- Introduced by relative pronoun (who)
- Modifies the noun (player), acts like adj.

Can be used as an adjective.

Example 2

- The subject that I like best is English.

Analysis

- Introduced by relative pronoun (that)
- Modifies the noun (subject), acts like adj.

Can be used as an adjective.

Example 3

- The family whose cat is lost lives on the corner.

Analysis

- Introduced by relative pronoun (whose)
- Modifies the noun (family), acts like adj.

Dependent Clause

- Can be used as adverbs.
- Introduced by subordinating conjunctions.
- Modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs by answering the questions “how,” “where,” “when,” “why,” “to what extent,” or “under what conditions.”

Can be used as an adverb.

Example 1

- Unless I hear otherwise, we'll see you Sunday.

Analysis

- Introduced by subordinating conjunction (unless)
- Modifies the verb (see), acts like adverb

Can be used as an adverb.

Example 2

- Bill laughed at the joke until he cried.

Analysis

- Introduced by subordinating conjunction (until)
- Modifies the verb (laughed), acts like adverb

Can be used as an adverb.

Example 3

- Wilma earned my respect because she was honest.

Analysis

- Introduced by subordinating conjunction (because)
- Modifies the verb (earned), acts like adverb

Can be used as an adverb.

Example 4

- The ocean was noisier than she had remembered.

Analysis

- Introduced by subordinating conjunction (than)
- Modifies the adjective (noisier), acts like adverb

Can be used as an adverb.

Example 5

- When the curtain rose, the audience quieted.

Analysis

- Introduced by subordinating conjunction (when)
- Modifies the verb (quieted), acts like adverb

Dependent Clause

- Can be used as noun or predicate noun
- Subjects, objects, appositives
- Mostly used as subjects or objects of sentences.
- Occasionally objects of preps
- Look for verb first and determine how clause is used.
- Cannot do the Independent/Dependent

Dependent Clause

- Most noun clauses introduced by
 - That
 - How
 - Why
 - What, Whatever
 - Whoever
 - Whether
- Followed by group of words used as a single noun.

Can be used as a noun.

Example 1

- Why he came to the party is a mystery to me.

Analysis

- Dependent clause used as a noun
- Subject of the verb “is”

Can be used as a noun.

Example 2

- Whatever food remained was eaten later.

Analysis

- Dependent clause used as a noun
- Subject of the verb “was eaten”

Can be used as a noun.

Example 3

- Whoever answered the phone was a friend of theirs.

Analysis

- Dependent clause used as a noun
- Subject of the verb “was”

Can be used as a noun.

Example 4

- The teacher explained that voting was a privilege.

Analysis

- Dependent clause used as a noun
- Object of the verb “explained”

Can be used as a noun.

Example 5

- It might have been that the telephone was out of order.

Analysis

- Dependent clause used as a noun
- Serves as a predicate noun.

Can be used as a noun.

Example 6

- I'll speak to whoever is home.

Analysis

- Dependent clause used as a noun
- object of the preposition “to”

Can be used as a noun.

Example 7

- We'll eat at whatever restaurant has seafood.

Analysis

- Dependent clause used as a noun
- object of the preposition “at”

Review

Underline the independent clauses once and the dependent clauses twice. Tell whether the dependent clauses are adjective or adverb.

1. Because the bus was late, we missed the first act.
2. The birds that flew overhead were sea gulls.